

REMARKS:

Claims 1-23 are in the case.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants elect the prosecution of the method claims 1-11 in Group I, with traverse to the extent that product claims that further limit any allowable method claims might be re-joined.

In response to the restriction to one patentably distinct species identified by the Examiner, applicants elect the prosecution of claims directed to the consumable ingot being cp-Ti grades 1, 2, 3 or 4.

This election is made with traverse to the extent that a claim might be found allowable which includes the consumable ingot being either titanium or the titanium alloys, for example as identified in generic claim 6, might be found allowable.

This election is believed to entitle applicants to examination of claims 1 (at least to the extent that it defines titanium as the consumable ingot but also currently includes titanium alloy as an alternative ingot), and claims 2-11.

Claim 1 has also been amended to improve its form and to correct an error in the translation. No new matter has been added.

The error was made in the Spanish syntax, which was incorrectly translated to the phrase in the third paragraph of claim 1 that had read: "Obtaining a consumable ingot of titanium or non-reinforced titanium alloy." The original relevant Spanish text of the PCT application that forms the basis of this Rue 371 application, read "un lingote consumible de titanio o de una aleación de titanio no reforzado" (emphasis added). "No reforzado" refers to both "lingote," that is the ingot, rather than only to the alloy. Otherwise, the Spanish wording would have been different. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and it is important and clear from the application as a whole that where titanium is used, it is non-reinforced ingot of titanium and, likewise, were titanium alloy is used, it is a non-reinforced ingot of titanium alloy.

Also see the specification at page 5, line 8 and page 6, line 12 that clearly supports the fact that non-reinforced titanium or non-reinforced titanium alloy is used in the invention.

This is an important point and is an essential feature of the invention. In the prior art, consumable ingots of reinforced titanium (for example, at 5%) are normally used. They are melted to obtain reinforced titanium parts with the same composition (that is, 5%). According to the present invention, a non-reinforced ingot of titanium or titanium alloy is used, to which some reinforced titanium (for example, at 40%) is incorporated. Then, simultaneous melting of the ingot and the reinforcing material takes place in such a way that the reinforced material is incorporated and distributed in the composite parts so as to obtain reinforced titanium composite parts (for example, at 55%).

With respect to the method claims and to further traverse the Examiner's restriction between the method and product claims, claim 12 has also been amended to limit the composition to the product made according to claim 1. This is a hybrid or bridging claim which is believed to unify both method claims 1-11 and the product claims 12-23, so that the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the product claims as well.

In any case, entry of this amendment and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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PCM:df

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